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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/827,555	MIKOSHIBA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason T. Whipkey	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

2. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which Applicant may become aware in the specification.

Drawings

3. Figure 8 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, Applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 4, 6, 9, 15, and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- In claim 4 on line 30, “based on of the whole” should probably read, -- based on the whole --.
- In claim 15 on line 6, “a first output area” should probably read, -- the first output area --.
- In claim 15 on line 8, “a first speed” should probably read, -- the first speed --.
- In claim 15 on line 10, “a second speed” should probably read, -- the second speed --.
- In claim 16 on line 6, “a first output area” should probably read, -- the first output area --.
- In claim 16 on line 8, “a first speed” should probably read, -- the first speed --.
- In claim 16 on line 10, “a second speed” should probably read, -- the second speed --.

Claims 6 and 9 are objected to because they are dependent on claim 4.

Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claims 10-20 are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.75(a) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 recites the limitation “the image display information controller” on line 7.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, -- the image display controller --.

Claim 11 recites the limitation “the display section” on line 26. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 14 recites the limitation “the display section” on line 20. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 12, 13, and 15-20 are objected to because they are dependent upon claims objected to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 4 recite the limitation “the second output area” on line 19. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, “a second output area”.

Claims 11 and 14 recite the limitation “the second output area” on line 16. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, “a second output area”.

Claims 2, 3, 5-10, 12, 13, and 15-20 are rejected because they are dependent upon the above claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

10. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kijima (Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-013686) in view of Hashimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,972,799).

Regarding **claims 1 and 11**, Kijima discloses a digital camera (see Drawing 1 in the provided computer translation) comprising:

an image pickup device (CCD 1) having an image capturing area for converting optical images of a photographic object into electrical signals to accumulate (see page 7, lines 13-15);

a readout controller (signal generator 7) to control readout of the electrical signals accumulated in the image capturing area of the image pickup device (see page 7, lines 23-24);

an image information acquiring section (DRAM 9) to acquire image information according to the electrical signals being readout under the control of the readout controller (see page 7, line 44, through page 8, line 6);

an image display controller (inherently present in order for LCD 13 to operate) for controlling a display section (LCD 13) to display images based on the image information having been acquired by the image information acquiring section (see page 7, lines 40, through page 8, line 6); and

a signal output process executing section (process processing circuit 5) for executing signal output processing to output electrical signals accumulated in a first output area (shown in the center of Drawing 12) within the image capturing area of the image pickup device at a first speed (see page 8, lines 24-30) as well as

to output electrical signals accumulated in the second output area (areas A and B in Drawing 12) other than the first output area at a second speed higher than the first speed (see *id.* and page 6, lines 31-35);

wherein the image information acquiring section acquires image information of a predetermined area according to electrical signals of the predetermined area within the first output area having been output by the signal output process executing section during the signal output processing (the central area is used for autofocusing and is output to LCD 13; see page 10, lines 13-16), and

the image display controller controls to display a moving image based on the image information of the predetermined area acquired by the image information acquiring section in a display area corresponding to the predetermined area within a display area of the display section during the signal output processing (see *id.*).

Kijima is silent with regard to displaying a predetermined still image on the rest of the display area.

Hashimoto discloses an autofocus apparatus that performs high-speed readout when focusing, wherein the apparatus displays a predetermined still image in the display area (image data held in memory 14 that is captured immediately before the shutter button is pressed is displayed; see column 16, lines 10-20).

As stated in column 17, lines 10-15, an advantage of displaying the still image data during the high-speed readout performed during the autofocus operation is that the user can be

prevented from being confused. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Kijima's system display still image data on the screen.

Regarding **claims 2 and 12**, Kijima discloses:

the predetermined still image is a predetermined color image (see page 4, line 11).

Regarding **claims 3 and 13**, Kijima discloses:

image information in which the predetermined area image information having been acquired by the image information acquiring section is removed from the whole display area image information (see page 10, lines 13-16).

Hashimoto discloses:

the image information acquiring section (memory 14) acquires whole display area image information corresponding to a whole display area of the display section based on the electrical signals being readout under the control of the readout controller at a starting timing of the signal output processing (see column 16, lines 10-20),

and the image display controller controls to display an image, as the still image on the display section during the signal output processing (see *id.*).

Regarding **claims 4 and 14**, Kijima discloses a digital camera (see Drawing 1 in the provided computer translation) comprising:

an image pickup device (CCD 1) having an image capturing area for converting optical images of a photographic object into electrical signals to accumulate (see page 7, lines 13-15);

a readout controller (signal generator 7) to control readout of the electrical signals accumulated in the image capturing area of the image pickup device (see page 7, lines 23-24);

an image information acquiring section (DRAM 9) to acquire image information according to the electrical signals being readout under the control of the readout controller (see page 7, line 44, through page 8, line 6);

an image display controller (inherently present in order for LCD 13 to operate) for controlling a display section (LCD 13) to display images based on the image information having been acquired by the image information acquiring section (see page 7, lines 40, through page 8, line 6); and

a signal output process executing section (process processing circuit 5) for executing signal output processing to output electrical signals accumulated in a first output area (shown in the center of Drawing 12) within the image capturing area of the image pickup device at a first speed (see page 8, lines 24-30) as well as to output electrical signals accumulated in the second output area (areas A and B in Drawing 12) other than the first output area at a second speed higher than the first speed (see *id.* and page 6, lines 31-35);

wherein the image information acquiring section acquires a whole display area image information corresponding to the whole display area of the display

section based on the electrical signals having been readout under control of the readout controller at the starting timing of the signal output processing by the signal output process executing section (while the entire area is read out, only the central area is used for autofocusing and is output to LCD 13; see page 10, lines 13-16).

Kijima is silent with regard to displaying a still image on the display Hashimoto discloses an autofocusing apparatus that performs high-speed readout when focusing, wherein the apparatus displays a predetermined still image in the display area (image data held in memory 14 that is captured immediately before the shutter button is pressed is displayed; see column 16, lines 10-20).

As stated in column 17, lines 10-15, an advantage of displaying the still image data during the high-speed readout performed during the autofocus operation is that the user can be prevented from being confused. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Kijima's system display still image data on the screen.

Regarding **claims 5 and 15**, Kijima discloses:

an auto focus processing section for executing an auto focus processing to adjust a focus automatically at the time of image capturing of a photographic object, wherein when the auto focus processing is executed, the signal output process executing section executes the signal output processing to output the electrical signals accumulated in the first output area within the image capturing area of the image pickup device at the first speed as well as to output the electrical

signals accumulated in the second output area other than the first output area at the second speed (see page 8, lines 24-30).

Regarding **claims 6 and 16**, Kijima discloses:

an auto focus processing section for executing an auto focus processing to adjust a focus automatically at the time of image capturing of a photographic object, wherein when the auto focus processing is executed, the signal output process executing section executes the signal output processing to output the electrical signals accumulated in the first output area within the image capturing area of the image pickup device at the first speed as well as to output the electrical signals accumulated in the second output area other than the first output area at the second speed (see page 8, lines 24-30).

Regarding **claims 7 and 17**, Kijima discloses:

an auto focus processing section for executing an auto focus processing to adjust a focus automatically at the time of image capturing of a photographic object, wherein when the auto focus processing is executed, the signal output process executing section executes the signal output processing to output the electrical signals accumulated in the first output area within the image capturing area of the image pickup device at the first speed as well as to output the electrical signals accumulated in the second output area other than the first output area at the second speed (see page 8, lines 24-30),

wherein a predetermined area within the first output area includes a focus adjusting area where a focus adjusting position of the photographic object exists (see *id.* and note that the central portion of the image is used for focusing).

Regarding **claims 8 and 18**, Kijima discloses:

an auto focus processing section for executing an auto focus processing to adjust a focus automatically at the time of image capturing of a photographic object, wherein when the auto focus processing is executed, the signal output process executing section executes the signal output processing to output the electrical signals accumulated in the first output area within the image capturing area of the image pickup device at the first speed as well as to output the electrical signals accumulated in the second output area other than the first output area at the second speed (see page 8, lines 24-30),

wherein a predetermined area within the first output area includes a focus adjusting area where a focus adjusting position of the photographic object exists (see *id.* and note that the central portion of the image is used for focusing).

Regarding **claims 9 and 19**, Kijima discloses:

an auto focus processing section for executing an auto focus processing to adjust a focus automatically at the time of image capturing of a photographic object, wherein when the auto focus processing is executed, the signal output process executing section executes the signal output processing to output the electrical signals accumulated in the first output area within the image capturing area of the image pickup device at the first speed as well as to output the electrical

signals accumulated in the second output area other than the first output area at the second speed (see page 8, lines 24-30),

wherein a predetermined area within the first output area includes a focus adjusting area where a focus adjusting position of the photographic object exists (see *id.* and note that the central portion of the image is used for focusing).

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Kijima discloses:

the image information acquiring section acquires image information of the focus adjusting area based on the electrical signals of the focus adjusting area within the first output area having been output by the signal output process executing section during the auto focus processing (see page 8, lines 24-30), and

wherein the image display controller controls to display an image based on image information in which the focus adjusting area image information having been acquired by the image information acquiring section is removed from the whole display area image information (see page 10, lines 13-16).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Whipkey, whose telephone number is (571) 272-7321. The

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examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. eastern daylight time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye, can be reached at (571) 272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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August 6, 2007



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